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Times Your Community

Happy Holidays! 101/Tully improvements begin

District 8

Report

By Councilmember Rose Herrera Special to the Times

elief is in sight! Yes, construction has begun on the 101/Tully interchange. Relief is in signi.

begun on the 101/fully interchange.

Soon, we will be able to see a profound improvement in our daily com-

I'm pleased to share with you details on this joint project between the City of San Jose, VTA and Caltrans. As a member of the VTA Board, I have played a role in completing this project by prioritizing funding and keeping it moving forward despite delays. It has not been easy getting this project to the finish line. My thanks to all agencies and elected officials that supported the project and helped get it to this point.

When these improvements are completed, we will all spend less time in our cars. The improvements will reduce traf-

congestion and improve safety along the U.S. 101 corridor by removing merging, weaving conflicts, and eliminating traffic bot-tlenecks. I drive this everyday and I know firsthand these changes are desperately need-

What will the changes look like? The improvements will change the interchange, the 101 overcrossing, the 101 southbound lane, and the 101 northbound off-ramp.

The Highway 101/Tully Rd. interchange

will be reconfigured to a partial cloverleaf. The existing Tully Road overcrossing of Highway 101 will be replaced. An additional lane will be added on southbound 101 from Story Road to north of Capital Expressway and extend the south bound lane from Tully Road to Capital Expressway. The project will also improve the northbound and south-bound Highway 101/Tully Road off-ramps and install traffic signals at the terminus Northbound and southbound on-ramps will also be widened and realigned with HOV projects are coming in under budget and the savings can be directed to other projects.

Can the savings be used to fund Highway 101/Yerba Buena improvements? The answer is yes. The VTA and City of San Jose are work-

ing with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to fund improvements to the Highway 101/Yerba Buena interchange, considered the second phase of this project, Together, we are workng to see that this \$31 million project is funded by savings from the Highway 101/Tully Road project and savings from construction projects through-out the state.

Phase 2 will bring improve-nents along Highway 101 all the way to Capitol Expressway and Yerba Buena interchanges. Thanks to cooperation

between the leadership at VTA and the work of MTC, VTA secured \$4.4 million to complete the design of the partial cloverleaf inter-change at Capitol Expressway, the addition of the southbound auxiliary lane and a new offramp at the Yerba Buena interchange. Once the design is complete, this phase of the Highway 101 Improvement Project can com-pete for funding from construction contract savings and other state and federal funds. We are close enough to see the finish line.

While the work on the Highway 101/Tully Rd. project has begun, we will officially celebrate the project's groundbreaking in January 2011. In the mean time, Caltrans will work to minimize the impacts of construction on our neighborhoods, by conducting most construc-tion activities between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m.

Be prepared for temporary inconveniences such as lights, noise, traffic delays, and lane and ramp closures. Pardon the dust! It is all short-term inconveniences that will bring us long-term relief. Look for the completion of

During this holiday season, it has been a joy to share the great news about highway improvements with commuters that they are getting an early Christmas present! It is music to everyone's ears that that Highway 101/Tully Road construction has begun and traffic relief is in sight. Happy Holidays!

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